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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

22nd June 2010 Both vulnerable. South deals.

	NORTH K 10 7 5 K 2 Q 7 4 A Q 3 2	
WEST Void J 8 6 5 4 J 10 6 3 J 9 7 6		EAST Q J 9 A Q 9 3 8 5 2 K 8 4
	SOUTH A 8 6 4 3 2 10 7 A K 9 10 5	

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 Spade	Pass	4 Spade	All Pass

Opening lead: Five of

On a good day, North-South wrap up 12 tricks in quick time — the ace of hearts is inside, the king of clubs can be finessed successfully and trumps break 2-1, so declarer loses only one heart trick. Obviously, Tuesday is not a good day!

Against four spades, reached in one round of bidding, West led a fourth-best heart. Declarer rose with dummy's king, losing to the ace. East cashed the queen of hearts and then shifted to a diamond. Declarer was unaware of fortune's vicissitudes until he won with king of diamonds and cashed the ace of trumps, only to discover he had a trump loser as well. Suddenly a laydown game depended on avoiding the loss of a club trick.

Declarer was up to the task. He drew another round of trumps, cashed two more diamond tricks and the exited with a trump, throwing East on lead. East had a choice of ways to commit suicide. A heart would allow declarer to ruff on the table while discarding a club from hand; a club would be into dummy's major tenace. Either way, declarer held his losses to two hearts and a trump.

See, bridge is an easy game after all!

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